3/20/76

Mr. Larry Gonzalez, Articles Editor
Playboy Magazine
919 N. Michigan Ave.,
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Dear Larry,

This is a precautionary letter, in haste to be able to make today's outgoing mail.

My letter should have reached you yesterday. This one should reach you Monday morning. I'll be away from about 1:45 until about 2:30 our time Monday. I'll be leaving for Washington early Tuesday morning where prior arrangements beginning with a 9 a.m. medical appointment will take the entire day. I'll stay over with Jim Lesar, whose phone is always covered in person, not by machine and where I'll be able to get any message promptly, wherever I am.

My present disposition is to go to court Wednesday morning if I do not by then have the assurances I have asked.

I'll be guided by legal advice, of course. I've consulted not only Lesar but a New York lawyer who filed is publishing.

I do not hide my concerns because I do not want Playboy not to understand them.

One is that I am aware that if there is any attention to what you may force me to do it can contribute to the real danger I can see. Another is that any attention will be hurtful to Playboy and will make a stink. Yet it may be that to protect myself I'll have no real choice.

If I have no alterative I will, you should understand, parsue this one with vigor.

Because my interest is not to sue and collect but to prevent harm Ioffer a layman's advice on this and what it can mean to Playboy if your lawyers are not fully aware. In addition to the original copy you sent me, which has my notations and to the correspondence, which put you on notice after the JFK plagiariam (for which you paid me and after which I told you not to use any more without permission and that for some I would not give permission) I have the tapes of the conversations I made to backstop your taping of them. These tapes clearly disclose that you taped on my suggestion, that I was also making tapes to backstop your inexperienced people and that in meeting my obligation to you I did inform you of the extensive and uncredited plagiarism not only from me but from Frank and Buie on the King piece and a number of others on the JFK pieces. If I have no choice but to make this public I believe Playboy's problems will not be entirely legal.

At the same time I want you to understand that my interest is not in hurting Playboy, richly as it deserves exposure for this limitless thievery. It is to protect myself. Thus unless Lesar counsels otherwise in order not to be delayed in seeking protection, I may not want to return a Tuesday call during the working day because once the medical appointment is over I'll be with the FBI for the rest of the day. This means that some agents will overhear my end of a conversation if you do call on Tuesday. (I hope I'll hear from you Monday.) If you do call and do share this concern for Playboy I recommend that you leave numbers at which someone can be reached after the end of the normal working day.

I did shorten my work in New York against my interest to be able to help you out of your own mess and I did offer to provide material to fill any voids but in the end my pursuit of my essential interets must come first.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg

No. 598546

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SENT TO Larry Gonzalez, Art. Ed. - Playboy Magazine

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